

AMONG FRIENDS

Vol. 4 No. 3

THE FRIENDS OF TOM BAKER

3/87



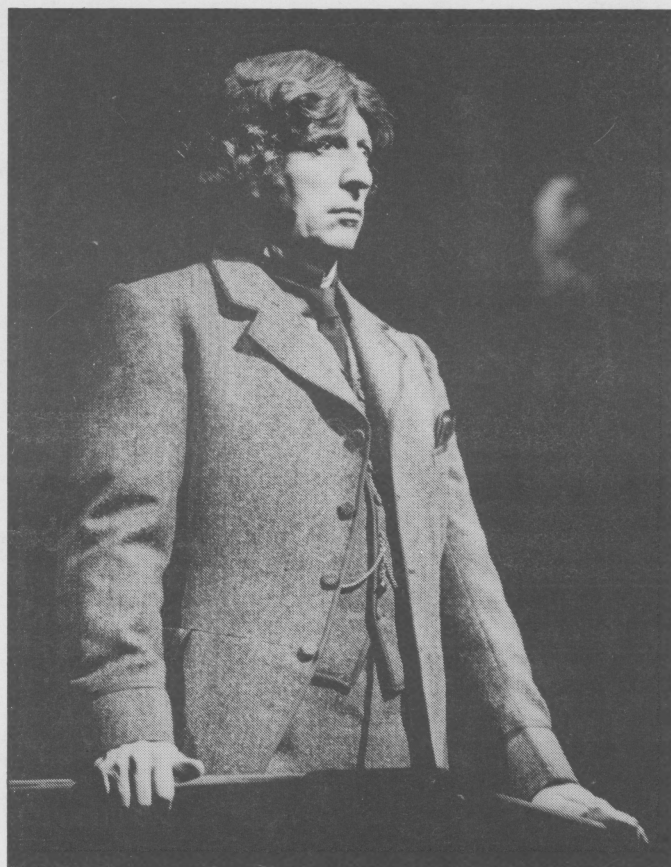
through the play, particularly in the enigmatic character of Inspector Goole. Who precisely is this mysterious caller, the man-from-the-street with the polite urgency and the sudden frost in his voice? Is he indeed a police inspector, and if not who (in this world or the next) can he be?"

The play will open April 14 at the Theatr Clwyd in Mold, Wales, and will stay there for three weeks before moving to London, where it will open at the Westminster Theatre on May 6th. The length of its run in London is not yet known, but Tom has said it will be a minimum of six weeks.

INSPECTOR TOM IS CALLING!

On March 16 Tom began rehearsing the part of Inspector Goole in An Inspector Calls, written by J. B. Priestley. The following material is taken from 10 Classic Mystery and Suspense Plays of the Modern Theatre:

"An Inspector Calls finds the author gathering together a group of people, seemingly wrapped in respectability, then by remorseless cross-examination leaves them a self-convicted assemblage of guilty persons. Yet, while reality pervades in An Inspector Calls, there also is a singular undercurrent of mysticism flowing



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Thanks for the words of encouragement and support I've received from you in response to my last column. This time I need to explain a more major change in the club, and hope your response will be as positive.

After the tour last fall many of you told me that you had gone to one or more of the events to see Tom but ended up falling in love with Colin as well. In addition, your response to last issue's flyer about Colin was extremely enthusiastic. As for me, for a long time I single-mindedly believed, like many other fans, that it's impossible to be loyal to more than one Doctor/actor, but that theory lost credibility with me after a friend "dared" me to write to Colin and I began to discover how delightfully bright, witty, charming and talented he is.

Though many fans have expressed a desire to join one, no one has tried to run a club of TFOTB's scale for Colin. I believe he's very deserving of our affection and attention and have decided I'd like to run a club for him, but I've been wrestling with an awkward problem: I don't want to give up running a club for Tom, but it would be difficult to run two clubs simultaneously, primarily because of the double load of administrative duties (keeping track of two checking accounts and two membership lists, publishing two separate newsletters, etc.).

It was Tom who suggested what seems to be a workable solution: a combined club! I've discussed the idea with many of you; most have approved, and many are enthusiastic. Colin has also given his approval, so we're going to "regenerate"--from now on we'll be The Friends of Tom and Colin Baker, and our newsletter will be entitled Doubletalk.

If any of you disapprove of this change and wish to terminate your membership, just let me know and I'll refund the balance of your dues. However, I want to emphasize that if you stay with us you'll still receive all the current news about Tom--you'll receive information about Colin in addition. And once the word about the "new" club gets around, I'm sure that many of Colin's fans will join us and that there will be more Friends--and more fun--than ever before!

Laurie

The Friends of Tom and Colin Baker (established in 1983 as The Friends of Tom Baker) exists to promote awareness among Tom and Colin's fans regarding their careers and activities. For membership dues of \$10/year (\$15/year overseas airmail) each member will receive 4 issues of our quarterly newsletter. (Currently entitled Among Friends, it will be renamed Doubletalk beginning with the June 1987 issue.) Renewals are due by the last day of the month/year on your mailing label.

Grounds for termination of membership include non-payment of dues, conduct which might tend to misrepresent the club, unauthorized use of the club name, and unauthorized reproduction of club materials. All of the material in the newsletter is copyright to the author/artist and copyright reverts upon publication.

The Friends of Tom and Colin Baker
P.O. Box 8363 • Stanford, CA 94305-0217

Coordinator/Editor: Laurie Yadon

Photo/Art Credits

- Pg. 1L: (c) 1983 Laurie Yadon
(taken at the Palo Alto convention)
- Pg. 1R: Compliments of the Chichester
Festival Theatre Press Office
(from "Feasting With Panthers")
- Pg. 3 and 6: (c) 1986 Mary Maxwell
(taken during September 1986 tour)
- Pg. 4L and 5: Compliments of Yorkshire TV
(from "The Book Tower")
- Pg. 4R: (c) 1984 CBS
(from "The Zany Adventures of Robin Hood")

Also, thanks go to the following for their contributions to this newsletter and/or club operations: Gail Bennett, Lorenia Butler, CKW Associates, Karen Fleming, Shirley Gerber, Yvette Gordillo, Jan Grokett, G.R. Grove, Mari Wallace (for the super photo research she's done for us!), Pat Smith, Debra Spaulding, Kathy Starnes, Joanne Walsh, and Alex Wong. And special thanks to my April Fool team: Loretta Forte, French Lesierre, and Kathy Martin!

Copyright 1987,
The Friends of Tom
and Colin Baker



AMONG FIENDS SUPPLEMENT

THE FRIENDS OF TOM BAKER 4/1/87

THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG!

We are finally able to reveal a secret project Tom has been working on for some months: a one-man show based on the works of Saki (H. H. Munro). Drawing on his extensive experience with animal impersonations, Tom will realize a long-cherished ambition to portray the cat Tobermory.

The secrecy has been due to the involvement of ILM and Henson Assoc. in designing Tom's costume, a completely realistic cat suit. Months of design work have resulted in an engineering marvel complete with microprocessor-controlled prosthetic tail, ears and whiskers. Also contributing to this production, provisionally entitled

"Cat Diary," was Harold Pinter, who had a hand in the script development.

Details are unclear, but the script is rumored to comprise a number of dramatic reenactments of great animal moments. The shakedown tour will begin soon, probably somewhere in France or Japan. Asked about the unusual venue, our informant said, "We wanted to get the bugs out without audience involvement. If all goes well, we will open in the West End late this year."

"I've really immersed myself in the part," Tom purred. We can't wait to see what will undoubtedly be a unique performance!



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

TOM JOINS THE CIRCUS

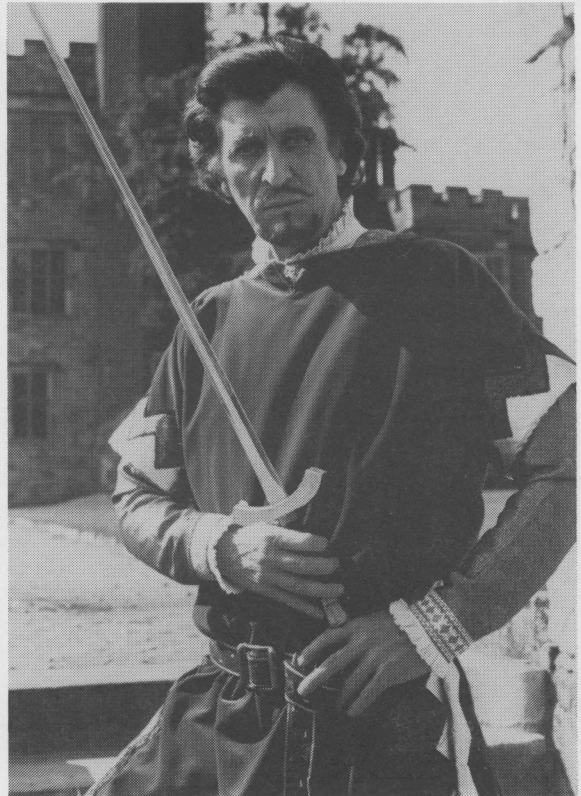
We've just heard that Tom will appear on TV's "Circus of the Stars." The photo below was taken on the set; what a shaggy, huggable, adorable creature! The burro he's posing with is a member of The Flying Burro Brothers, the world's only equine trapeze artists. Edgar Rice (pictured with Tom) and his brothers, Will and Gaines, are to follow Tom's act.

The stunt Tom was originally scheduled to do--throwing jam tarts (instead of the traditional daggers) at a blindfolded Elizabeth Taylor--was vetoed by him as being too violent. He was overheard muttering, "I will NOT take the responsibility for getting marmalade on a Legend."

Tom consented instead to attempt the unheard-of feat of getting into a cage with twelve untamed tigers who'd never been handled before, and putting them through their paces. The five-week-old felines proved to be quite a handful for Tom ("They wouldn't sit up or roll over or beg or ANYTHING"), but despite being drooled on and getting orange hairs ALL over his trousers Tom did manage to get all twelve of them to drink out of a single saucer of milk, and then drop off to sleep one by one, like little furry striped dominoes...



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



DUELING FOR DOLLARS

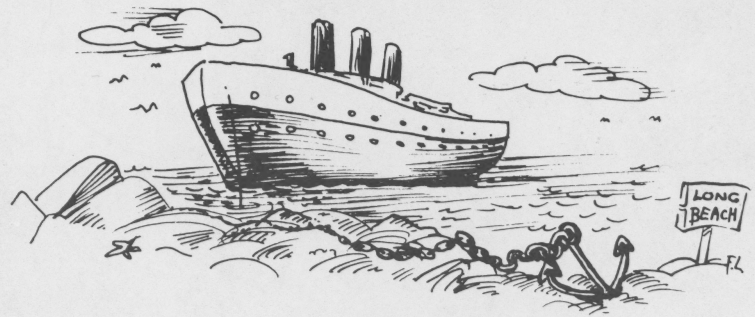
In February Tom finished taping his segment of an hour-long television special, "Dueling for Dollars." We understand the program will feature costumed celebrity guests pitting their skills against each other to benefit their favorite charities.

Apparently some of the pairings are in the nature of TV grudge matches, and the opening segment consists of a duel between Tom and Pierce Brosnan. When questioned about his success, Tom grinned modestly and said "Touché!" However, our informant has mysteriously commented that "the whole exercise was pointless."

The filming of Tom's segment of the program proceeded smoothly, but we understand problems were encountered in filming some of the other segments, notably the rematch between Monty Python and the Killer Rabbit.

To quote a promo, this co-production "combines the best of British and American television." We suspect that the program may have been designed as the first of a series for syndicated sale in the States.

EXCLUSIVE
OFFER — FOR
CLUB MEMBERS
ONLY!



A CRUISE TO NOWHERE ABOARD THE QUEEN MARY

HOSTED by TOM BAKER

Between leaving the Army and entering drama school, Tom worked on the Queen Mary as a merchant seaman. Many of us have been curious about that period of his life, and he has finally been persuaded to share some of his memories with us. We have miraculously been able to arrange for the splendid passenger liner to briefly leave her permanent berth at Pier J in Long Beach for a "Cruise to Nowhere," a once-in-a-lifetime experience which is scheduled for July 4th. During the four hours we're at sea Tom will conduct a walking tour of the ship, and afterwards he'll serve us tea in one of the ship's magnificent salons.



The cost of this exciting adventure is only \$895 per person (including tea, of course). We can accept only a limited number of reservations, so you should plan to reserve your spot right away!



In addition to getting both of us for the price of one, there's a special, limited-time offer: new members will also receive a complimentary stainless steel electric snail probe with digital read-out. Just think, they'll never again have to worry about whether their snails are ready!

WE NOW RETURN YOU TO OUR REGULAR PROGRAMMING.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO TEMPORARILY DISTORT YOUR REALITY!

WHERE TO WRITE TO TOM

Tom receives so much fan mail that it must be handled by his agent's office. We print their address because it's the only one available, but please understand we can't guarantee that your mail will reach Tom or that you'll receive an acknowledgment. The address is: London Management, 235/241 Regent Street, London W1A 2JT.

PLEASE KEEP SENDING THOSE SASEs

Most of you have enclosed self addressed stamped envelopes when you've written to request information. Thanks! Enclosing an SASE saves us time and money and is much appreciated. (It isn't necessary if you're ordering merchandise at the same time, however, because we will usually enclose a response with your merchandise.)

CLUB MERCHANDISE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

- Prices include postage.
- Checks/money orders should be payable to The Friends of Tom and Colin Baker.

Transcripts of Tom's convention talks:

- Palo Alto (May 1983) (\$6.00)
- Chicago (July 1983) (\$8.00)
- St. Louis (March/April 1984) (\$6.00)

Back issues of AMONG FRIENDS @ \$1.50 each (we'll send original copies if available, otherwise you'll receive photocopies):

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Vol. 1, #1 (9/83) | Vol. 2, #4 (6/85) |
| Vol. 1, #2 (12/83) | Vol. 3, #1 (9/85) |
| Vol. 1, #3 (3/84) | Vol. 3, #2 (12/85) |
| Vol. 1, #4 (6/84) | Vol. 3, #3 (3/86) |
| Vol. 2, #1 (9/84) | Vol. 3, #4 (6/86) |
| Vol. 2, #2 (12/84) | Vol. 4, #1 (9/86) |
| Vol. 2, #3 (3/85) | Vol. 4, #2 (12/86) |

IF IT'S FRIDAY, THIS MAY BE MILWAUKEE

NOTE: The following two pages of photos and comments are taken from a press conference held at WMVS-TV (Channel 10 Milwaukee public TV) on Sept. 19, 1986, when Tom and Colin Baker were on tour. Eleven press representatives queried Tom, and his responses included some thoughts not previously offered in convention settings.



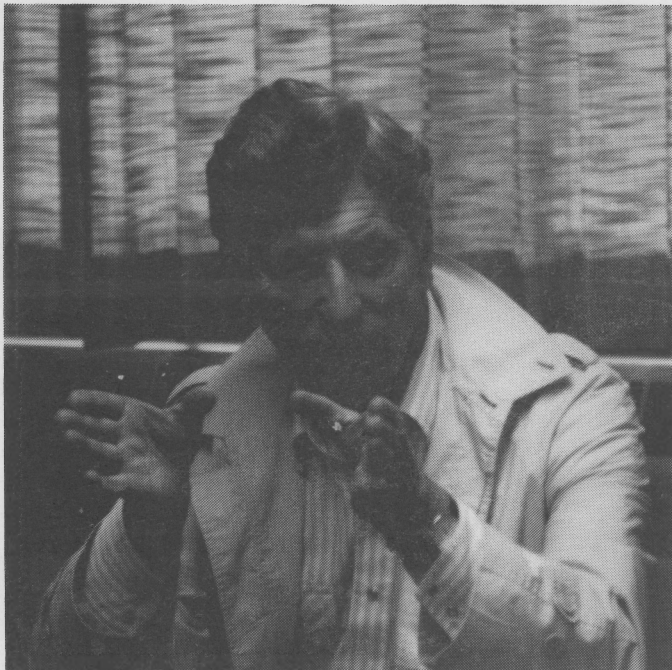
"All sorts of things go on in fandom, I guess ... It's a mixture of all sorts of things in a country as large as America, where people collide and form friendships and enjoy standing in lines and sharing their enthusiasms and catching actors out ... And so often I get a question, and I know perfectly well the person who is asking me the question has asked me the question before and is just setting me off on a track because they like that particular story. I sometimes see a smile of pleasure when I pick it up too fast. Instead of me being clever and thinking, 'Next question, please,' I leap like a salmon to the fly and pick up the

cue, and actually that fan has scored over me. And if that fan's got two or three friends there, it was probably a little plot. So there are all sorts of things going on — people are wooing each other and leaving each other. It's a kind of an intense thing. There is hardly ever any hostility, so it becomes a very unreal world in that way."



"I'm not saying that I wanted to use the sort of naturalistic violence that one sees on television, but I thought there was a kind of fantastical violence that was very amusing. Sometimes it's rather coy, the avoidance of violence on television is inevitable, because we all know that in most circumstances, violence succeeds ... Sometimes there is a kind of muddled area, as if when people say 'I'm just anti-violence' — that violence in itself has no place in our society. To get things changed in certain places there is an inevitability about it ... In *Doctor Who* I thought the methods of violence ... were really very, very conventional and they could have been exaggerated, made funny so that we all knew that we were constantly in a fantasy."

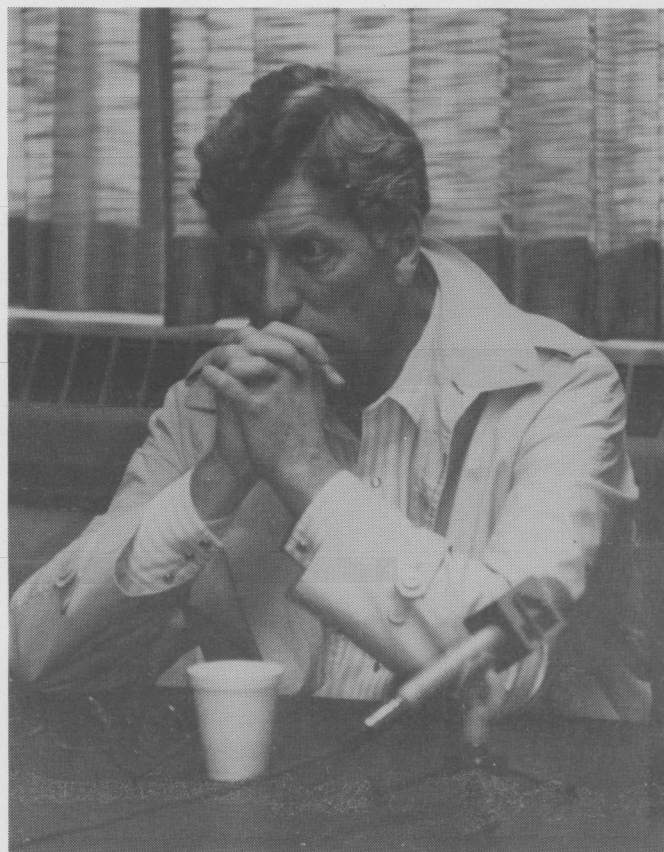




"I don't think that I am capable of playing anything towards adults. Adults don't really interest me as a mass audience ... I am actually interested in that kind of unspoiled, or relatively unspoiled, area of childlike attitudes."



"I wasn't playing a science fiction character. I was playing a science fantasy character ... The difference between science fiction and science fantasy is acute. Science fiction purports, actually, to have a possible application in the future. The difficulty in science fiction is in defining the artifacts and the attitudes in a long-distance future. When you are working in science fantasy, you don't keep necessarily to any of these rules. You just invent as you go along."



"My attitude to life is never to be taken seriously. I'm terrified of people who want to be taken seriously. I can't comprehend that state of mind. I hope that I might be considered competent enough to work and, given a chance to work, perhaps might make the alchemy of transmuting something ordinary into something amusing or diverting — perhaps. Once in a while even touching."



*(Text courtesy of CKW Associates)
(All photos copyright 1986 by CKW Associates)*